

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that assurances of full protection for human rights could be made and timely reforms could be forthcoming. While I recognize that Macedonia is not a member of the OSCE, Macedonia is not excused from complying with international human rights standards.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1022) to provide regulatory reform and to focus national economic resources on the greatest risks to human health, safety, and the environment through scientifically objective and unbiased risk assessments and through the consideration of costs and benefits in major rules, and for other purposes:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1022 is regulation by strangulation. If you think government red tape has been tied in knots, just wait until you experience the results of this Republican red flag against public health and safety and the environment.

The cumbersome imposition of regulations on top of regulations will only serve to delay approval of anything to protect public health and safety and the environment. The resulting delay will threaten the lives of many and the future of all Americans. In our daily lives, the delay will translate into unregulated food and chemical products and in the longer term, the risk will be the loss of our national patrimony.

Once again, the contract is placing financial interests over the interests of American public. A CNN/Time poll taken at the end of January determined that Americans consider environmental protection one of the most important problems—23 percent—or very important—65 percent. Only 23 percent of the people surveyed believed that protection from pollution had gone too far.

The risk in risk assessment is great. You cannot put a price on preventing illness, saving lives or preserving natural lands. Common sense should be brought to this debate on dollars and cents. A petroleum industry official had this comment about H.R. 1022:

This reminds of 1981, when the industry shot itself in the foot * * * Business not only lost but managed to engender much of the strident public environmental sentiment that later resulted in far stricter laws.

H.R. 1022 does not discriminate between regulations—ones where the process should be re-examined or streamlined and ones that should be eliminated. The indiscriminate over-riding of existing protections throws out the good with the bad.

Like other components of the Republican regulatory reform package, H.R. 1022 represents another opportunity for special interests to paralyze the Federal regulatory process at the expense of average, taxpaying Americans.

In this case, Mr. Chairman, less government means more government. The layers of bureaucracy that will be added to the regulatory process by H.R. 1022 will put more lives in harm's way. If you want to vote for more gov-

ernment and less public health and environmental protection, then you have the right bill in front of you. If you want to vote for government reform, you will need to look elsewhere.

I urge my colleagues to vote for less government—vote "no" on H.R. 1022.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH A. RICCARDI, HONORARY IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR, 1995

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph A. Riccardi, Honorary Irishman of the Year, 1995, who will be honored at this year's St. Patrick Day Parade in Jersey City.

The Irish have been immigrating to the United States since the early part of the 19th century. In that time, they have made many contributions to this country. They have distinguished themselves at every level of American society. As Irish-Americans have built their businesses, so have they contributed to the economic prosperity of this Nation. As they have grown politically, they have contributed to government on the local, State and national levels. Their devotion to family and friends demonstrates that much can be accomplished when people work together in harmony.

At home, Irish-Americans have worked hard to protect all of us from crime and fire. They have put their lives on the line to help ensure the safety of their fellow citizens. The long, proud tradition of Irish police officers and firemen scarcely needs to be mentioned. However, the Irish have not only been good neighbors at home, they have also put their lives on the line when they have fought to defend this Nation against our foes in every major conflict over the last 200 years.

Joseph Riccardi is being honored this year for his many contributions to the community. Mr. Riccardi founded Knights Auto Body, Inc. in 1960. He served as commissioner on the Jersey City Parking Authority, Hudson County Recreation Authority and as a board member of the Jersey City Medical Center Foundation. Mr. Riccardi is a former chairman of the Jersey City chapter of the March of Dimes, and he has served on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee since 1962. In addition, he is a sponsor of Project Children, and is the Honorary Irishman of the Jersey City Emerald Society.

Through the years, Mr. Riccardi has served the people of Jersey City Well. His involvement in the many above-mentioned organizations shows that he is committed to helping make life a little easier for his fellow Americans. He is truly an exemplary individual.

As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, let us remember all of those Irish-Americans men and women who have made a difference in the United States. This is a day for us to acknowledge their achievements and feel proud to have them in the United States. This holiday is an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to Irish-Americans; past and present.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN M. HAUSMAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helen M. Hausman and her upcoming induction into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Helen M. Hausman is an exceptional public servant with a remarkable history of leadership in our community. She has served on the PTA for 25 years, been elected to the Sequoia Union High School District Board four times, and chaired a bay area symposium on the Geneva Conventions and Humanitarian Law. In addition, she is currently serving her second term on the San Mateo County Community College District Board and chairing the San Mateo County American Red Cross board of directors. As an advocate for youth and women, Ms. Hausman has volunteered for a number of youth organizations, and the Junior League has appointed her as community advisor to serve as a role model for young women volunteers. Ms. Hausman has also spoken on gender equity issues for the American Association of University Women.

Mr. Speaker, Helen M. Hausman is an outstanding citizen, and I commend her for her remarkable commitment and contributions to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her as she is being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

CELEBRATING FLORIDA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud observance of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the State of Florida.

One hundred and fifty years ago today, President John Tyler signed into law the Florida Statehood bill, enacted 2 days earlier by the 28th Congress, admitting Florida as the 27th State. Today, the Sunshine State has risen in stature to become the fourth largest State of the Union, with an economy larger than all but 14 countries. In the last 15 years alone, its population has risen by more than a third, further enriching one of the most economically successful, culturally vibrant regions of America.

The Sunshine State plays a vital role in American prosperity. In 1513, Ponce de Leon's initial landfalls along Florida's pristine beaches marked the first steps by European settlers on the shores of North America. Today, the more than 20 million visitors to our State each year walk these same beaches seeking their own Fountain of Youth. Florida welcomes tourists from across the world who come to enjoy our cultural offerings and environmental beauty.

Our State's rich natural resources provide our Nation with a healthy diet of fruits, vegetables, and fish, and its manufacturing industries supply America with key electrical, transportation and high technology equipment.

Since the Spanish-American War, critical military facilities across Florida have defended

our Nation's Southeast flank, and have given us the ability to protect our national interests throughout the hemisphere. On the threshold of the 21st century, the United States relies ever more on Florida's strengths in education and technology, assets that have already launched us into a new frontier.

As Commander Steve Oswald told our Florida congressional delegation this morning while orbiting the Earth in Space Shuttle *Endeavor*, "Every time Americans have left the planet to explore space, they have done so from Florida."

The greatest testament to Florida's excellence comes from the tens of thousands of people each year who choose to make our State their homes. Whether by birth or by choice, Floridians are a proud people who have contributed greatly to the history of our Nation. Twenty-two sons of Florida have won the Nation's highest award for bravery, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for protecting our country's freedoms. Here in the Nation's Capital, 96 Floridians have served our State and our Nation in the House of Representatives, and 30 have distinguished themselves through their service in the Senate. We salute our predecessors and the numerous other Floridians who have served in the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the Federal Government.

From the white, sandy beaches and intercostal waterways of Pinellas County, the area which I have the privilege to represent, to the tropical Keys to the south, the rich pine forests to the north, and the excitement of the Kennedy Space Center on the east coast, after 150 years, the Sunshine State has become synonymous with great historic moments and diverse natural beauty. Florida's many diverse successes have transformed it into a gateway between North and South America, a bridge from the Earth to space, and a link connecting us to our future. With great pride, I salute the State of Florida on this historic day. May the sun always shine on its future.

SALUTE TO THE RHO CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rho chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at Temple University in Philadelphia. The men of Rho chapter are celebrating their 80th year of fraternal service on March 31, 1995.

Alpha Phi Alpha, founded in 1906, is the Nation's first and oldest African-American Greek-letter organization. Alpha Phi Alpha was established for young men of African descent who were not allowed to join other Greek-letter organizations. Since its establishment, seven other African-American Greek organizations have been created, using Alpha Phi Alpha as a model.

Alpha Phi Alpha has over 100,000 initiated members in over 600 undergraduate and alumni chapters throughout the country 89 years later. Alpha Phi Alpha is the sponsor of many national programs which provide support to the United Negro College Fund, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, and March of

Dimes and many scholarship endeavors. Through their programs, the members of Alpha Phi Alpha have helped many less fortunate people in cities across the Nation. Some of the distinguished men who were part of this brotherhood include: the Honorable Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Honorable David Dinkins, and Mr. Jesse Owens.

Rho chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha was founded on November 3, 1914, at Temple University. Rho chapter follows the format of the national chapter in format and purpose and has contributed a great deal to communities throughout the city of Philadelphia.

On this 80th anniversary of its establishment, I would like to recognize the Rho chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha for its accomplishments and contributions both to its members and to communities in Philadelphia and across the Nation. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating President James G. Slaughter and the upstanding men of the Rho chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha on this great anniversary.

LEGISLATION REGARDING RETIREMENT PACKAGE FOR REVENUE OFFICERS

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which grants an early retirement package for revenue officers of the Internal Revenue Service, Customs Inspectors of the U.S. Customs Service, and immigration inspectors of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The legislation will amend the current law that grants retirement after 20 years to Federal law enforcement officers and firefighters, but does not include the groups mentioned above. Similar to currently covered law enforcement officers and firefighters, the employees to be covered under this bill have very hazardous, physically taxing occupations, and it is in the public's interest to ensure a vigorous work force in these positions.

Because my district is located on the United States-Mexico border, I know first hand the hardship and hazards that these employees endure on a daily basis. Most recently, drug smugglers have attempted to actually run over inspectors by speeding through our border crossings. Some Customs employees have lost their lives in the line of duty. These employees are confronted everyday with the criminal element. We must ensure that they receive adequate and competitive benefits so that we can continue to recruit the highest caliber people for these positions.

The need for a 20-year retirement benefit for inspectors of the Customs Service is easily apparent. These employees are the country's first line of defense against terrorism and the smuggling of illegal drugs at our borders. They have the authority to apprehend those engaged in such activities. They are responsible for the majority of arrests performed by Customs Service employees. These employees face multiple challenges. They confront leading criminals in the drug war, organized crime figures, and increasingly sophisticated white-collar criminals.

The physical demands of the Revenue officer job are evidenced by heavy workloads, and a high rate of job stress, resulting in a variety of physical and mental symptoms. The employees frequently use pseudonyms to hide their identity because of the large threat to their personal safety.

This legislation is cost effective. Any cost is more than offset by savings in training costs and increased revenue collection. A 20-year retirement bill for these employees will reduce turnover, increase yield, decrease employee recruitment and development costs, and enhance the retention of a well-trained and experienced work force.

It is imperative that we establish an effective Inspector and Revenue officer work force to ensure the integrity of our borders and proper collection of the taxes and duties due the Federal Government.

This bill, once enacted, will correct an oversight for these Federal employees. I ask the committee of jurisdiction to take up the legislation as rapidly as possible, and urge my colleagues to support it.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

(a) TREATMENT AS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—Section 8331(20) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "administrative position," and inserting "administrative position, and any revenue officer, customs inspector, customs canine enforcement officer, and Immigration and Naturalization inspector."

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 8331 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (25);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (26) and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(27) 'revenue officer' means an employee of the Internal Revenue Service, the duties of whose position are primarily the collection of delinquent taxes and the securing of delinquent returns, including an employee engaged in this activity who is transferred to a supervisory or administrative position;

"(28) 'customs inspector' means an employee of the United States Customs Service, the duties of whose position are primarily to—

"(A) enforce laws and regulations governing the importing and exporting of merchandise;

"(B) process and control passengers and baggage;

"(C) interdict smuggled merchandise and contraband; and

"(D) apprehend (if warranted) persons involved in violations of customs laws, including an employee engaged in this activity who is transferred to a supervisory or administrative position;

"(29) 'customs canine enforcement officer' means an employee of the United States Customs Service, the duties of whose position are primarily to work directly with a dog in an effort to—

"(A) enforce laws and regulations governing the importing and exporting of merchandise;

"(B) process and control passengers and baggage;

"(C) interdict smuggled merchandise and contraband; and

"(D) apprehend (if warranted) persons involved in violations of customs laws,